



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 1, 2008

H.R. 6456

An act to provide for extensions of certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes

As passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 30, 2008

SUMMARY

H.R. 6456 would extend U.S. broadcasting service to Asian countries and amend or extend other provisions of current law affecting personnel in international broadcasting and at the Department of State. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6456 would cost \$34 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 6456 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 6456 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 150 (international affairs).

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 6456 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2009, that the estimated amounts will be appropriated each year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for existing programs.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009-
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	34	*	*	*	34
Estimated Outlays	0	29	5	*	*	34
Note: * = less than \$500,000.						

Radio Free Asia

Section 4 would extend Radio Free Asia (RFA) through 2010. RFA is a U.S. radio broadcasting service to certain Asian countries, which received an appropriation of \$33 million in 2008 and is currently authorized through 2009. Based on the President's budget request for 2009 and after adjusting for inflation, CBO estimates that extending RFA through 2010 would cost \$34 million over the 2010-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

Other Provisions

H.R. 6456 contains three provisions that would have an insignificant impact on spending subject to appropriation:

- Section 2 would expand the number of eligible destinations that members of the Foreign Service may travel to for rest and recuperation.
- Section 3 would allow the Department of State to pay the subsistence expenses of special agents who are assigned to protective missions at their duty stations. Under current law, those expenses are paid only for missions outside an agent's duty station. Based on information from the department, CBO estimates very few agents would be affected.
- Section 5 would extend through 2009 the authority of the International Broadcasting Bureau to hire personal service contractors as broadcasters and broadcasting specialists.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 6456 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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